

# North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

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## ***Research – Resources – Report***

Sponsored by: Division of Student Support & Innovation

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[www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/Resources/News\\_Pubs/](http://www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/Resources/News_Pubs/)

**Mission: To gather and share current research and resources with educators.**

### ☞ **Empowering Teachers**

This website is a resource for kindergarten through third grade teachers to help them in making sound instructional decisions. There is information on the building blocks of reading, what skills should be taught and mastered at these grade levels, how to measure reading skills, how to use assessment results to guide instruction, and how to determine the effectiveness of your reading instruction.

[www.fcrr.org/assessment/ET/index.html](http://www.fcrr.org/assessment/ET/index.html)

### ☞ **Great Schools Launches Guide for Parents**

Great Schools has announced the full launch of the [GreatKids State Test Guide for Parents](http://www.statetestguide.org), a free, online tool organized by grade and subject to help parents use their state test scores to support their kids at home. The guide launched for states using Smarter Balanced assessments earlier this year, and the version for states using PARCC tests is now online. The guide helps provide specific, actionable information for parents, customized to the grade level of their children, and described relative to the sections of the tests. It is available in English and Spanish for grades 3-8. To learn more and use the guide, visit [www.statetestguide.org](http://www.statetestguide.org).

### ☞ **Later School Start Times for Teens Could Optimize Academics and Safety**

In 2014, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) [recommended](#) that secondary schools start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. to accommodate teenagers' changing biological sleep cycles, which dictate later sleeping and waking times. The AAP cited studies finding that teens who don't get enough sleep demonstrate poor academic performance and a higher risk of auto accidents. Further, getting the nine hours of sleep recommended for teens becomes a challenge in adolescence when sleep cycles make it difficult for teens to fall asleep before 11:00 p.m.

A group of sleep researchers from Harvard University, Oxford University, and the University of Nevada [recently made their own recommendations](#) that school start times for teens should synchronize with their biology, ideally calling for classes to start at 10:00 a.m. for 16-year-olds and 11:00 a.m. for 18-year-olds. They stated that a 7:00 a.m. wake time for teens is equivalent to a 4:30 a.m. wake time for a teacher in their 50s.

### ☞ **What is Mathematical Discourse?**

So what exactly is discourse? What are the teaching practices associated with successfully establishing an environment to support it, and as a result, to improve mathematical proficiency? How does one begin to elicit meaningful talk during math lessons? As a profession, we share a vision about the role student discourse has in the development of students' mathematical understanding, but are often slow to bring the students along. Children do not naturally engage in this level of talk. This [article](#) will get you talking in the right direction!

### ☞ **Tynker**

Tynker is a new computing platform designed specifically to teach children computational learning and programming skills in a fun and imaginative way. The belief is that computational thinking and computer programming should be part of the core curriculum in education. The goals include to:

- Provide every child with a solid foundation of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) thinking abilities to prepare them for 21st century degrees and careers.
- Enable children to learn Computer Science concepts through discovery, creative activities and experimentation.

Tynker is inspired by Scratch from MIT. More information is available at <https://edshelf.com/tool/tynker/>.